

REMARKS

Claims 1-9 are all the claims pending in the application.

I. Claim Rejections on Prior Art Grounds:

The Examiner rejects claims 1-4 and 7 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by JP 06-222352 to Shozo et al. ("Shozo"); claim 5 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Shozo in view of US 5,645,901 to Fukuchi et al. ("Fukuchi"); and claim 6, 8, and 9 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Shozo. Applicants respectfully traverse all of these rejections in view of the following remarks.

Independent claim 1 has been amended to recite that the transparent layer has a thickness of *more than 380 nm*. This specific limitation finds support in the specification at numbered paragraph [0019]. At least this feature (as recited in claim 1), in combination with the other limitations recited in claim 1, is not taught or suggested by the prior art relied upon by the rejection grounds.

The rejection grounds rely upon Shozo to teach all of the features defined by claim 1. In so doing, the rejection grounds compare the thin film 2 to the transparent layer of the present invention. The heavy reliance upon the Shozo reference is misplaced.

In particular, Shozo indicates that the thickness of the film 2 is 50 Å or more, preferably 100 to 3000 Å, and more preferably, 200 to 1000 Å. Thus, the maximum disclosed thickness of the film 2 is 3000 Å (or 300 nm). 300 nm does not overlap the claimed thickness range of *more than 380 nm*. It is preferable to set the thickness of Shozo's film 2 as thin as possible to achieve both of transparency and prevention of reflection by means of thin film characteristics.

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116
U.S. Appln. No. 09/883,941 (*Q65071*)

Furthermore, Applicant respectfully submits that the claimed thickness range of the transparent film is advantageous from the aspect of the total reflection effect of the transmitted light. In this respect, the transparent layer is formed as thick as possible. For example, a thickness of more than one wavelength (i.e., 380 nm) is preferable.¹

For these reasons, Applicant respectfully asserts that claim 1 is patentable, and that claims 2-9 are patentable at least by virtue of their dependencies.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

¹ Spec., numbered paragraph 19.

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116
U.S. Appl. No. 09/883,941 (Q65071)

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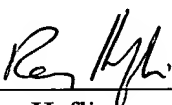
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